

Office of Congressman Charles W. Dent  
*Proudly Representing Pennsylvania's 15<sup>th</sup> District*



For Immediate Release  
August 3, 2006

Press Contact: Gregg W. Bortz  
610-861-9734 or (cell) 202-222-5118

## Congressman Dent urges Senate to pass wage hike and tax relief as passed by the House

LEHIGH VALLEY — U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent (PA-15) today urged the U.S. Senate to pass the minimum wage increase bill passed by the House last week. The Senate is expected to vote on the bill Friday.

As passed by the House, the current \$5.15 rate would increase in stages to \$7.25 over two-and-a-half years. The House bill gives consideration to the economic impact on small businesses by extending relief on the estate tax – the so-called “death tax” — that often kills small businesses and family farms when they pass from generation to generation.

“Raising the minimum wage after almost a decade is a reasonable and fair way to help entry level and low-income workers keep up with the economy,” Congressman Dent said. “I urge the Senate to pass the bill as we handed it to them, to help workers without breaking the backs of the small businesses and farms that employ them.”

Congressman Dent also said the bill’s combination of the minimum wage and tax relief is absolutely appropriate because it balances the needs of workers with the needs of those who pay them.

“The death tax is money that small businesses and family farms, could be using to hire and retain workers,” Congressman Dent said. “The minimum wage only means something if small business can afford to hire workers in the first place.”

###